



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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SOLIS VOTES AGAINST ENERGY BILL Votes NO to letting Polluters off the hook

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Democratic Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, voted against the Energy Policy Act of 2005. H.R. 6 passed the House by a vote of 249-183.

"The Republican energy bill is one of the greatest hoaxes perpetrated on the American public. It limits states' right to protect their water supplies and their air quality, it risks the public health of working families, it leaves us more dependant than ever on fossil fuels, and it leaves our states picking up the tab for cleanup of contamination. It protects MTBE manufacturers from liability for contamination and lines the pockets of the oil and gas industries with hard earned taxpayer dollars," said Congresswoman Solis.

This legislation included several provisions which are detrimental for California. Specifically, the energy bill:

- (a) prevents California from having a role in the approving of liquefied natural gas terminals;
- (b) allows refineries to be sited in most of California;
- (c) strips communities of all local siting and operation authorities;
- (d) makes water providers and consumers pay for contamination from MTBE manufacturers;
- (e) requires Californians to purchase ethanol from Midwest manufactures which could result in a gas price increase of 8 cents;
- (f) and preempts California's appliance efficiency standards.

"America, and especially California, needs an energy policy that will make it secure for generations to come. This legislation fails to do just that," said Congresswoman Solis.

During consideration of the energy bill, Congresswoman Solis made several attempts to protect consumers' interests and public health. The Energy and Commerce Committee rejected Congresswoman Solis' attempts to ban the use of injecting diesel fuel into groundwater during hydraulic fracturing and Republicans refused to change underlying legislation to ensure California's access to federal cleanup funds. Congresswoman Solis also offered an amendment on the House floor to strip language which would allow for unregulated siting of refineries in underserved and minority communities. This amendment failed on a largely party line.

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